

# BACK TO SCHOOL TRAFFIC SAFETY

The beginning of school is around the corner and students will be out and about. Please remember the following traffic safety tips to ensure a safe school year.

## Advice for Parents and Children

- Children need to be aware of traffic. They can't assume that traffic will stop because their school bus has its stop sign out. Remind your children to look around the side of the bus to check for vehicles before stepping out to cross the street.

## Advice for Motorists

- When you are driving through a neighborhood, be aware that children could be playing in the street beyond your line of sight.
- Drivers are required to stop when approaching a school bus that has its lights flashing even on wide, four-lane streets like Roswell Road. The exception is when highways are separated in the center by a median. In this situation, only vehicles traveling in the same direction as the school bus must stop.

# CONTACT US

City of Sandy Springs Online: [sandyspringsga.gov](http://sandyspringsga.gov)

Sandy Springs Citizen Response Center: 770.730.5600

Community News and Discussion: [facebook.com/CoSSGA](https://www.facebook.com/CoSSGA)

Breaking News and Traffic Alerts: [twitter.com/SandySpringsGA](https://twitter.com/SandySpringsGA)



In compliance with the American Disabilities Act, this document is available in alternate formats by contacting the ADA Compliance officer at 770.206.1545



# ANNUAL SANDY SPRINGS FESTIVAL CELEBRATES 27 YEARS

Each year, an estimated 20,000 attendees gather in the center of Sandy Springs for shopping, food and entertainment at the Sandy Springs Festival. This year's event will explore the roots of Sandy Springs and will celebrate the heritage of our community through interactive crafts and exhibits. The Festival will take place on the weekend of September 22 and 23, 2012. Be sure to stop by one of the scheduled demonstrations performed by our Fire Rescue, Police and Recreation Departments on the corner of Hilderbrand Drive and Sandy Springs Circle. Event information can be found at [sandyspringsfestival.com](http://sandyspringsfestival.com).

## MORE UPCOMING EVENTS

### July 28, 2012 | Annual Chattahoochee River Summer Splash

Bring your kayak or raft and beat the heat with a six-mile float along the Chattahoochee River during the annual Summer Splash. After completing the float, enjoy an afternoon of live music, food and fun for the entire family during festivities at Powers Island. Guests can bring their own kayak, canoe or raft, or rent one from local outfitters. Learn more: [nps.gov/chat](http://nps.gov/chat)

### August 7, 2012 | National Night Out

The City of Sandy Springs and Target are teaming up for the 29th Annual National Night Out community celebration from 6:00-8:00 p.m. at Hammond Park (705 Hammond Drive). The free event will include food and refreshments; fire trucks and police cars; an opportunity to meet with police officers and firefighters; car safety seat checks; the Fire Safety House and information on how to sign up or start a Neighborhood Watch program.



# INVESTING IN OUR FUTURE STORMWATER INFRASTRUCTURE

BY MAYOR EVA GALAMBOS



Stormwater projects are not exactly the most glamorous aspects of city government. It is a lot more interesting to discuss sidewalks, street lights, parks and recreation programs, than corrugated pipes underground that are supposed to carry off stormwater. But as demonstrated by the \$2.5 million allocated for "stormwater capital projects" in the coming year's City budget, stormwater is an important issue.

Shortly after Sandy Springs was incorporated, we began to get complaints

from homeowners concerning flooding or runoff in their yards that came from someplace else. We were aware that the standards Fulton County administered for stormwater pipes in the 1950-1960 time periods were probably quite lax, realizing that a multitude of problems might arise, especially as the corrugated metal pipes gradually gave way. We were terribly concerned about what the total cost might be to bring the system up to date. Some folks threw out numbers as high as \$250

million! How would the City address a problem of this magnitude? We were presented with a proposal suggesting we establish a "utility fee," an extra payment on properties to pay for the remediation of the stormwater issues. The Council and I decided, instead, to ascertain the dollar size of the problem, and then decide how to address it.

In 2008 we received an analysis on the condition of our stormwater system and an estimate of the total cost to fix it. With

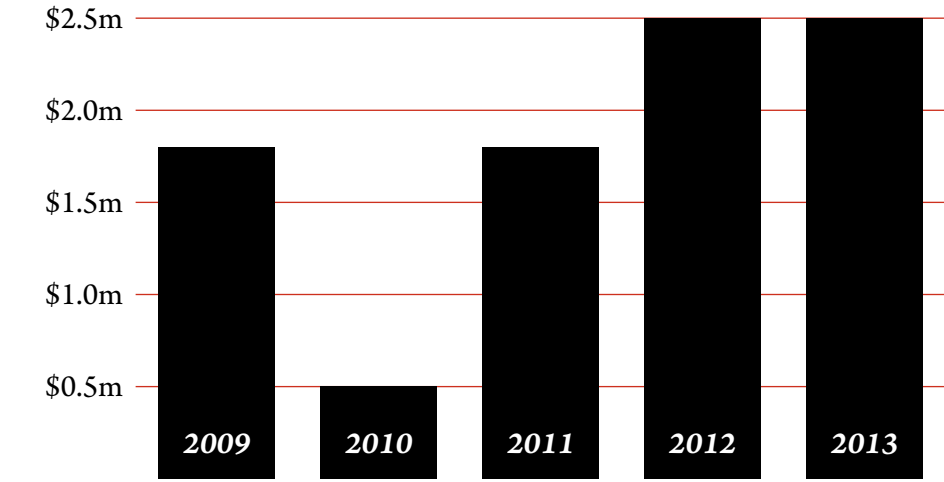


the 2009 budget, we began budgeting towards fixing the problems with annual allocations for capital improvements of the system.

From the very beginning, our Stormwater staff has kept us fully apprised of the number of projects (large and small) that are on the dockets. One large project example was the work on Riverside Drive completed in February 2011 at a cost of \$360,200. Work recently completed along Londonberry is a good example of a typical smaller project, costing \$4,281 to complete. From the City’s inception to the present, 760 projects have been identified and certified as projects for the City to fix. Of this number, 697 have been repaired.

New problems continue to be added, but the number of new is on the mend. Of course, the year 2009 was the worst in terms of identified problems, given the major flooding that washed out two major bridges on Riverside Drive and Peachtree Dunwoody Rd. Fortunately, the Federal Highway Administration and FEMA were extremely helpful in funding repairs from the flooding.

A major responsibility of the Stormwater unit and staff is to satisfy state and federal regulations that pertain to water quality. Obviously, polluted stormwater that drains into creeks, and eventually into the Chattahoochee River,



*Sandy Springs General Fund Allocated to Stormwater Capital Projects*

deteriorates the quality of the water. The state Environmental Protection Division has felt increasing pressure from the federal Environmental Protection Agency, with ever more stringent regulations, that eventually fall upon the local jurisdictions and their taxpayers. These regulations are enforced through detailed monitoring by local staff on outfalls, detention ponds, stormwater drainage holes, and other activities which bear a substantial burden on the local budget.

Of the \$2.5 million for stormwater capital projects in the coming year, \$1.4 million is planned towards addressing the ongoing repairs of reported projects. Of the remaining \$1.1 million, \$100,000 has been set aside to buy equipment needed to facilitate permit compliance, while \$1million

has been set aside for two pilot projects that would improve selected watersheds. Of course, these pilot improvements will also ameliorate the stormwater issues of the selected watersheds that would otherwise come to the surface in years to come, thereby reducing future repair problems.

It is gratifying that from a scary start in 2006, when we had no notion of what our stormwater liabilities might be, to the present, we are now able to allocate funds to system improvements that will reduce future repairs, instead of just keeping up with the repair register.

*Eva Gabauer*

### ARE YOU CONNECTED WITH SANDY SPRINGS?

Each month, the City connects with the Sandy Springs community through its email newsletter. Whether you live or work in Sandy Springs, this publication will keep you up to date on City news and community events. Signing up to receive the newsletter takes just a few seconds at [sandyspringsga.gov/signup](http://sandyspringsga.gov/signup).

For those looking for instant news, the City has a bustling Facebook community. “Like” the City page at [facebook.com/CoSSGA](https://www.facebook.com/CoSSGA) to begin receiving City posts in your Facebook feed. Alternatively, follow us on Twitter at [twitter.com/sandyspringsga](https://twitter.com/sandyspringsga) to receive breaking news and traffic alerts.



### REGISTER TO VOTE AT CITY HALL

As part of efforts to increase voter registration, Fulton County residents can now register to vote at Sandy Springs City Hall. The City of Sandy Springs is working in partnership with Fulton County and the other North Fulton County cities to increase participation for the 2012 elections.

Residents who wish to register at City Hall can request registration materials at the Revenue or Planning Permit Departments. Sandy Springs staff that have been trained and certified by the Fulton County Department of Registration and Elections will be available to assist residents who want to register to vote. Sandy Springs City Hall is located at 7840 Roswell Road, Building 500 in Sandy Springs and is open Monday-Friday, 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

To register, individuals must be a citizen of the United States, a legal resident of Georgia and of the county in which you wish to vote, and at least 17 ½ years of age. Individuals may not register if serving a sentence for a conviction of a felony offense or have been found mentally incompetent by a judge.

### BRANDON MILL ROAD IMPROVEMENTS

In the Fall of 2011, citizens expressed concerns with the safety and operational movement of the newly constructed intersection at Brandon Mill Road and River Springs Drive. In response to these concerns, the City of Sandy Springs and the Georgia Department of Transportation worked in partnership to improve the intersection. The improvements are currently underway, and the intersection is expected to be closed until mid-September. The River Springs Drive entrance next to Abernathy Road will be closed to all traffic, and Brandon Ridge Drive will be accessible from the North end on Brandon Mill Road. Detour signs and message boards are in place to help route traffic to Riverside Drive, Johnson Ferry Road and back to Abernathy Road.

### SANDY SPRINGS COMMUNITY SHAPES THE DEVELOPMENT OF OUR CITY CENTER

Earlier this year, the City commissioned the architecture, planning and preservation firm, Goody Clancy to help it create a master plan for the development of the Sandy Springs City Center. During a number of public meetings in May and June, community members exchanged ideas and provided input that will help shape the master plan for the project area. Public involvement is crucial to the success of the project, and we encourage your ideas and participation.

To learn more, visit the City Center development website at [sandyspringscitycenter.com](http://sandyspringscitycenter.com).

